



THE ORDER FOR SWANNES BOTH BY THE STA- tutes, and by the auncient Orders and Customes used within the Realme of ENGLAND.



1 R S T, Ye shall enquire if there be any person, that doth possesse any Swanne, and hath not compounded with the Kings Maiesty for his Marke (that is to say) sixt shillings eight pence, for his Marke during his life: If you know any such you shall present them, that all such Swans and Cignets, may be seized to the King.

2 Also you shall enquire, if any person doth possesse any Swann, or Cignet, that may not dispend the cleare yearely value of ffeue Markes of free-hold, except Heire apparant to the crowne: then you shall present him. 2 Edward 4. c a 6

3 Also If any person or persons, doe drive away any Swanne, or Swannes, breeding or prouiding to breed; be it vpon his owne ground, or any other mans ground: he or they so offending, shall suffer one yeeres imprisonment, and fine at the Kings pleasure, thirteene shillings four pence. 11 Henry 7.

4 If there be found any Weares upon the Rivers, not having any Grates before them; It is lawfull for every Owner, Swan-masters, or Swanne-herdes, to pull vp, or cut downe the Birth-rett, or Cynne of the said weare, or weares.

5 If any person, or persons, be found carrying any Swans-hooke, and the same person being no Swan-herd, nor accompanied with two Swan-herds: every such person shall pay to the King, Thirteene shillings four pence, (that is to say) Three shillings four pence to him that will inforne, and the rest to the King.

6 The auncient custome of this Realme hath and doth allow to every owner of such ground where any such Swan shall heirie, to take one Land-bird; and for the same, the Kings Maiestie must haue of him that hath the Land-bird, Twelues pence, Be it vpon his owne ground, or any other.

7 It is ordained, that if any person, or persons, do conuey away, or steale away the Egge, or Eggges of any Swannes, and the same being duely proved by two sufficient witnessses, that then euery such offender shall pay to the King thirteene shillings four pence, for every Egge so taken out of the Nest of any Swanne.

8 It is ordained, that euery owner that hath any Swans, shall pay euery yeare yearly for every Swan-marke, four pence to the Master of the Game for his Fee, and his dinner and supper free on the Clipping daies: And if the said master of the Game faile of the four pence, then he shal distraine the Game of every such Owner, that so doty faile of payment.

9 If there be any person, or persons, that hath Swannes, that doe heirie vpon any of their seuerall waters, and after come to the common Riuier, they shall pay a Land-bird to the King, and be obedient to all Swanne Lawes: for divers such persons doe use collusion, to defraud the King of his right.

10 It is ordained, that euery person, hauing any Swans, shal begin yearly to mark, the moneth next after S. Peters day, & no person before, but after, as conueniently may be, so that the master of the Kings Game, or his Deputy, be present. And if any take vpō him, or them, to marke any Swanne or Cignet, in other manner, to forfeit to the K. Maiestie for every Swan so marked fourtie shillings.

11 It is ordained, that no person or persons, being Owners, or Deputies, or seruants to them, or other, shal go on marking without the Master of the Game, or his Deputy be present, with other Swan-herds next adioyning, vpon paine to forfeit to the Kings Maiestie, fourtie shillings.

12 It is ordained, that no person shall hunt any Duckes, or other chase in the water, or neere the haunt of Swans in fencer time, with any Dogges or Spaniels: viz from the feast of Easter to Lammas: upon paine so; every time so found in hunting, to forfeit six shillings eight pence.

13 It is ordained that if any person doth set any snares or any manner of Nets, Lime, or Engines, to take Witternes or Swans, from the Feast of Easter, to the Sunday after Lammas day; then or they to forfeit to the Kings Maiestie so; every time so setting, six shillings eight pence.

14 It is ordained that no person take up any Cignet unmarked, or make any sale of them, but that the Kings Swan-herd, or his Deputy be present, with other Swan-herds next adioyning, or haue knowledge of the same: upon paine to forfeit to the Kings Maiestie forty shillings.

15 It is ordained that the Swan-herdes of the Duchie of Lancaster, shall by no Swanne, or make any sale of their, without the Master of the Swannes or his Deputy be present: upon paine to forfeite to the Kings Maiestie forty shillings.

16 And in like manner, the Kings Swan-herd shal not enter into the Libertie of the Duchie, without the Duchies Swan-herd be there present: upon the like paine to forfeite forty shillings.

17 It is ordained, that if any Swannes or Cignets, bee found double marked, they shal be seaz'd to the Kings use, til it be proved to whom the same Swans or Cignets doe belong: And if it cannot be proved to whome they doe belong, that then they be seazed for the King, and his Grace to be answered to the value of them.

18 It is ordained that no person make sale of any white Swans nor make delivery of them, without the master of the Game be present, or his Deputy, with other Swan herds next adioyning; upon paine to forfeit forty shillings: whereof six shillings eight pence to him that will informe; and the rest to the Kings Maiestie.

19 It is ordained, that no person shall lay Leapes, set any Nets, or Dragge, within the common streames or Rivers upon the day time, from the Feast of the Invention of the Crosse, unto the Feast of Lammas: upon paine so oft as they be found so offending, to forfeit twenty shillings.

20 It is ordained, that if the Master of the Swans, or his Deputy, do seize, or take up any Swanes, as strays, for the Kings Majestie, that he shall keepe them in a Pit within 20. foote of the Kings streame, or within 20. foote of the Common High-way, that the Kings subiects may haue a sight of the said Swans so-seized, vpon paine of forty shillings.

21 It is ordained that if any person doe raze out, counterfeit, or alter the Marke of any Swanne, to the hindering or losse of any mans Game, and any such offender duly prooued before the Kings Majesties Commissioners of Swaines, shal suffer one yeares imprisonment, & pay three pound six shillings eight pence, to the King.

22 It is ordained, that the Commons (that is to say) Dinner & supper, shall not exceed aboue twelue pence a man at the most: If there be any Game found where the dinner or supper is holden vp, on that Riuier, the owner being absent and none there for him, the Master of the Game is to lay out eight pence for him, and hee is to distraine the Game of him that faileth the payment of it.

23 It is ordained, that there shall be no forfeiture of any white Swanne, or Cignet, but only to the Kings Grace, as well within the Franchise and Liberties, as without, and if any doe deliver the Swanne, or Cignet so seized, to any person, but only to the Master of the Kings Game, or to his Deputy, to the Kings use; He is to forfeit six shillings eight pence, and the Swanes to be restored vnto the master of the Game.

24 It is ordained, that no person shall take any gray Swans or Cignets, or white Swans flying, but that he shal within four dayes next after, deliver it, or them, to the Master of the Kings Game, and the Taker to haue for his paines eight pence. And if he faile, and bring him not, he forfeits forty shillings to the King.

25 It is ordained, that no person, hauing any Game of his own shall not be Swan-herd for himselfe, nor keeper of any other mans Swannes; vpon paine to forfeite to the Kings Majestie forty shillings.

26 It is ordained, that no Swan-herd, fisher, or fowler, shall vex any other Swan-herd, fisher, or fowler, by way of action, but only before the Kings Majesties Justices of Assessions of Swans, vpon paine of forfeiting to the Kings Grace, forty shillings.

27 The Master of the Kings Game, shal not take away any bire
marked & wan coupled with any other mans wan, for breaking
of the bire: and when they doe Heirie, the one part of the Cignets
to the King and the other to the owner of the marked wanne.

28 Also, any man whatsoeuer he be, that killeth any wanne
with dogge, or & panicles, shall forfeit to the King forty shillings,
the owner of the Dogge to pay it, whether he be there or no. Also,
the Master of the Warres, is to haue for every white & wan
and gray uppynge, a penny and for every Cignet two pence.

29 It is ordained, that if any Heirie be leped with one Swan,
the wan and the Cignets shall be seazed for the King, till due
prooife be had whose they are, and whose was the wan, that is
away; Be it Cobbe or Pen.

30 Lastly If there be any other misdemeanour, or offence com-
mitted or done by any owner of any Game, Swan-herd, or other
person whatsoeuer, contrary to any law, ancient custome, or usage
heretofore vsed and allowed, and not before herein particularly
mentioned or expressed, you shal present the same offence, that re-
formation may be had, and the offendours punished, according to
the quantitie and qualitie of the severall offences.

FINIS.

God Sauethe King.